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Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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II. Replies received from Member States

Norway

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1. Norway considers that the risk posed nationally by surplus stocks of conventional ammunition is low. Such stocks are secured, controlled and accounted for by the Norwegian Defence Forces Logistics Organization. Strict national legislation as well as military regulations and procedures apply. Surplus ammunition is routinely being phased out and destroyed. Existing procedures and standards for physical security are assessed regularly with a view to improving security further.

2. Norway supports efforts to improve stockpile management and carry out the destruction of surplus weapons and ammunition through contributions to a range of projects in different regions. Norway is particularly involved in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Small Arms Light Weapons and Conventional Ammunition Programme in Tajikistan, to which it has seconded the Chief Technical Adviser since June 2005 and will continue to do so until the end of 2006. In addition, Norway is funding parts of the project's overall costs.

3. Norway is convinced that there is a need for strengthened international cooperation to secure stockpiles of conventional ammunition and destroy surplus ammunition, in particular in post-conflict settings. Norway holds the view that it would be helpful to address the issue of small arms and light weapons ammunition in a comprehensive manner as part of a separate process conducted within the framework of the United Nations. In that regard, Norway endorses the recommendation contained in paragraph 27 of the report submitted by the Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.